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SOURCE L'Avenir de la Tunisie.

PRESENTS NEW DATA ON PEACE PACT SIGNATURES

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

On 29 September 1951, it was reported that the women of Tunis, mostly housewives, had collected 2,000 signatures during the previous 2 weeks for a peace pact among the Big Five.

One door-to-door team alone reportedly collected more than 200 signatures in 1 1/2 hours, and sometimes actually persuaded an entire section of the city to sign.(1)

On 14 October 1951, at Sousse, the Comite pour la Liberation et la Paix (Committee for Liberation and Peace) met under the chairmanship of Mohamed Salah Gaafar, militant of the Old Destour Party, who is well known in the area.

The committee noted that 9,071 signatures had already been collected in the Sousse area and set for itself a goal of 15,000 additional signatures.

It also decided to send 30 representatives from Sousse, Akouda, Msaken, Ksibet el Mediouni, Moknine, Bembla, Ksar Hellal, Monastir, El Djem, Ksour Essaf, Zeramdine, and other cities to the national conference of 23 December 1951, which was to elect representatives from Tunisia to the Peace Congress of the Near East, the Middle East, and North Africa.

On 19 October, it was reported that a total of 32,000 signatures had been collected in Tunis as compared with 28,000 for the Stockholm Appeal.

During the previous week alone, the Peace Committee of North Tunis collected 1,175 signatures. The following were listed among the outstanding citizens who had signed the Peace Pact Appeal in Tunis: Dr Charfi, Sheik Iamine Chabbi, Bechar Goucha, Sheik Mohamed Cherchour, and Maitre Rahal.(2)

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- 1 -

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On 24 October 1951, the Comité pour la Libération et la Paix issued the following report on the collection of signatures in Tunisia:

Southern Tunisia (Redeyef, Moulares, Metlaoui, Gafsa, Nefta, etc.)	42,400
Tunis and surrounding area	34,640
Sahel region	12,716
Ferryville-Bizerte region	9,290
Beja-Medjez-Touiref region	3,935
Cap Bon region	3,425
Others	6,880
Total	113,322

Two major events have stimulated the enthusiasm of the supporters of freedom and peace: (a) Stalin's statement on atomic weapons deprived the warmongers of their principal means of blackmail and of arousing fear among peoples; and (b) the struggle of the Egyptian people has placed an obstacle in the way of an aggressive pact in the Middle East, which was to be a sort of extension of the Atlantic Pact.(3)

During the week ending 23 November 1951, 2,290 new signatures were collected at Sidi Nasrallah, 645 at Ferryville, and 437 were added to Redeyef's previous total of 27,000.

The total for all of Tunisia, as of the above date, stood at 116,701.(4)

#### SOURCES

1. Tunis, L'Avenir de la Tunisie, 29 Sep 51
2. Ibid., 19 Oct 51
3. Ibid., 24 Oct 51
4. Ibid., 23 Nov 51

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- 2 -

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